

## REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

LEHRBUCH DER FRACTUREN UND LUXATIONEN FÜR ÄRZTE UND  
STUDIERENDE. VON DR. ALBERT HOFFA, Priv. Docent, Uni-  
versität Würzburg. Städtischen Universitäts Buchhandlung.  
TEXT-BOOK ON FRACTURES AND DISLOCATIONS.

IN the somewhat over 700 pages set before the reader, the author has succeeded in supplying a work eminently practical in its nature—a work dealing in the simplest manner, not with the therapeutics alone, but giving a proportionate consideration to the pathological anatomy and the differential diagnosis of the simulating conditions as they present themselves.

In the preparation of this, the second edition, the scope of the work has not only been enlarged, but the author has added forty-nine new figures, making 374 illustrations, and twenty-nine colored plates.

In the selection of the figures he acknowledges his indebtedness for many of the same borrowed from Gurlt and various text-books.

The differential diagnosis of simulating conditions has received a careful consideration, and here again he is indebted to others for valuable additions.

The pages touching upon fractures of the skull form a strikingly clear exposition of the whole subject.

In speaking of the production of fractures of the base he passes with a few words upon those produced by direct violence to the much larger class dependent upon indirect violence, either by force conveyed through “impressions,” or those produced by a combined process of “bending and bursting.”

Under the first of these mention is made of those produced by a fall upon the head in which force is transmitted in a vertical axis, driving the base against the spine, with the production of a similar fracture and the tendency of a wedging in of the latter; or by a fall

upon the feet or pelvis, in which the force is transmitted through the spine after the fashion which the workman employs in tightening the handle of his tool by striking the end of the same against some resisting surface.

Before passing to those produced by a combined "bending and bursting," attention is given to those dependent upon *contre coup* and irradiation.

Speaking of the former, he reviews Gancerotti's vibration theory, and illustrates this in a few words with the case of President Lincoln, in which the ball entered on the left side of the occipital bone, passing to the right anterior lobe of cerebrum, with the fracture of the right orbital plate.

As to the latter, reference is made of Aran's law of irradiation, in which the fracture starts at the point of impression, traveling to the base by the shortest route.

Passing to the last the author, accepting the demonstrations of Bruns and Messerer of the comparative strengths and elasticity of the vault and base, reviews the experiments of von Wahl, Herman and others, in which it is shown that many of these rest upon a well-defined physical law, *i. e.*, when the force applied to a hollow globe overcomes the elasticity bursting occurs, and this naturally at the point of least resistance: now, since the base is not only the weakest but also the most inelastic, this is the first to give way.

In these he also points out that this fact is not without its medico-legal significance, in that the line of fracture always parallels the line of force.

In treating upon the shoulder joint, he has arranged the differential diagnostic points of the following:

(1) Contusion of the shoulder-joint; (2) supra-acromial luxation of the clavicle; (3) infra-acromial luxation of the clavicle; (4) fracture of the acromion; (5) fracture of the head of scapula; (6) subcoracoid luxation of humerus; (7) fracture of head of humerus; (8) trans-tubercular fracture of humerus; (9) fracture of greater tuberosity; (10) fracture of greater tuberosity with subcoracoid luxa-

tion of humerus; (11) fracture of lesser tuberosity; (12) fracture of anatomical neck of humerus; (13) fracture of surgical neck of humerus; (14) fracture of anatomical and surgical neck of humerus, with subcoracoid luxation; (15) fracture of epiphysis.

These are each considered in the following manner: (1) age; (2) manner of production; (3) appearance of shoulder; (4) acromion and deltoid; (5) soft parts beneath the acromion; (6) existence of elevations and depressions; (7) presence of pain at particular spots; (8) the axis of the upper arm; (9) position of the arm; (10) length; (11) function; (12) position of joint or fracture; (13) elicitation of crepitus; (14) preternatural mobility and rigidity; (15) possibility of reduction.

We note in addition a similar, but not as extended an arrangement in other joints, as the elbow, hip, etc.

In dislocations about the hip he gives place, principally, to Kocher's method by manipulation, and to Middledorpp's "*Methodus Mochlica*." Should these fail, arthrotomy under aseptic conditions is in order.

Should the luxation be complicated with a fracture of the neck, and its reduction be impossible, even after arthrotomy, primary resection, with the endeavor to form a new joint, should be attempted.

In old dislocations a careful attempt by Middledorpp's method should be made. Should this fail, farther force should be discouraged and then subtrochanteric osteotomy attempted, or in stubborn cases resection of the head, which has already been carried out in fifteen instances, is to be considered as a last resort.

In fractures of the patella he gives the indications in the treatment as: (1) removal of the articular effusion; (2) coaptation of fragments; (3) retention of fragments until consolidation; (4) overcoming quadriceps atrophy; (5) re-establishment of the functions of the joint.

Three methods of treatment are outlined—position, immobilization and the employment of suitable appliances; (2) massage; (3) operative treatment.

Fibrous union is the result in all but the sub-aponeurotic variety, and in the latter, as well as in those subjected to the operative method, bony union is the rule.

He emphasizes the suggestion of Macewen, that the lack of bony union is nearly always dependent upon the overlapping of the aponeurotic fringe.

In the treatment his remarks bear a notable savor of conservatism in that he is inclined to put the operative treatment decidedly in the background, even where antisepsis can be carried out.

We have noticed, here and there, a few minor discrepancies, *e. g.*, the omission of Fig. 101, on page 469; Fig. 236 is referred to as Fig. 237; again on page 545 we see Fig. 266, which evidently should read 296; but these are minor defects, hardly to be avoided, and which do not detract from its practical value.

The work, on the whole, furnishes a clear, distinct and thorough *exposé* of the subject with which it deals and from which the reader can gain such information as may be needed in moulding his course of action.

AUG. SCHACHNER.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN SURGICAL ASSOCIATION, 1892.

Edited by J. EWING MEARS, M.D., Recorder of the Association. Philadelphia: William J. Dornan. Vol. X., pp.xxii.—280.

This volume sustains the high standard from a scientific standpoint set in previous years by the publications of the Association. The majority of the papers, having already appeared in this Journal, are familiar to the subscribers and require no comment from the reviewer. But the index offers a great deal to interest the student of surgery. The index accompanying this volume is complete for all the published work of the Association from 1883 to 1892 inclusive, and as an indication of the development and advancement of surgery in this country is of great value. In glancing through this tabular statement of the ten years' work one is struck by the changes in the management of